

***A Park in Maryville* – Explanation of Occupational Justice Framework**

Occupational therapists are increasingly working in the area of preventative and population health. Those who work in this area hold a firm belief that there is a strong relationship between people's occupations, their health and their wellbeing (Wilcock, 1993). The concepts of health as defined by the World Health Organization (1978), is 'a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity' (p. 2.) Wellbeing is a more expansive concept than health as it infers a person's general contentment with life. There is now considerable evidence which supports that engaging in meaningful occupation has a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing (Law, Steinwender, Leclair, 1998).

These concepts infer that it is not only the biological functioning of individuals that determines their state of health and wellbeing. It is also their social and psychological functioning, their environmental conditions and the occupations they engage in. These components interact with each other and need to be understood so that the health and wellbeing of individuals within communities can be improved.

An occupational justice framework (Wilcock & Townsend, 2000), advocates that people **should have** equitable opportunity and resources to engage in meaningful occupation. Occupational therapists are now working with communities to help their participation in meaningful occupation, and hence improve their health and wellbeing (Watson, 2004). *A Park in Maryville* is an example of occupational injustice within a small community. The questions posed under the pretext of formulating an occupational diagnosis helps clarify occupational issues.

The outcome of occupational analysis may require occupational therapists to advocate for better services for communities whilst engaging in a political practice (Pollard, Kronenberg & Sakellariou, 2008).

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